

Sports brief

Oregon golfers sit in 11th

After shooting a career-low 73 in the first round of the Spartan Invitational on Monday, freshman Johnna Nealy continues to lead Oregon with a 73-76-149 after the second day at the 5,938-yard, par-72 Corral de Tierra Country Club in Salinas, Calif.

Nealy stands tied for 21st while senior Kathy Cho shot 75-77-152 to tie for 31st. Freshman Jess Carlyon improved her first round score of 84 by eight strokes to close out the second round tied for 55th (84-76-160).

Oregon moved up one place to 11th out of 16 teams after carding a 308-310-618 composite.

California maintained a one shot lead over New Mexico State by shooting 300 for a two-day total of 589 to lead the 21st Annual Spartan Invitational. Washington shot 3-under and captured the second day low round of 285. The Huskies and

Pepperdine stand tied for third place. The final round tees off at 8 a.m. Wednesday.

— from staff and wire reports

North Dakota falls to SDSU

GRAND FORKS, N.D. (U-WIRE) — As they have all year, the North Dakota men's basketball team struggled on the road, losing to South Dakota State in the Wells Fargo North Central Conference Finals on SDSU's home court.

North Dakota looked strong the previous night in a 68-53 route of Nebraska-Omaha, which advanced them into Saturday's game with the Jackrabbits.

The team trailed by as many as 12 points on two different occasions during the first half, before they went on an 8-0 run sparked by a Jerome Beasley dunk. However, Omaha remained consistent and held a five-point 29-24 lead entering halftime.

— Matt Schill (U. North Dakota)



Adam Amato Emerald

Oregon's Alyssa Fredrick (right) battles Brittney Hawks of Washington State on Friday in the first game of the Pac-10 Tournament.

Pac-10 Tournament fulfills expectations at Mac Court

■ Despite a shaky start on Friday, large crowds and good basketball greet the inaugural Pac-10 women's tournament

By Adam Jude
Oregon Daily Emerald

The weekend seemed destined for disaster.

The Oregon basketball team was greeted with a familiar cheer from its McArthur Court fans as the Ducks hit the hardwood Friday to face Washington State in the first game of the first Pacific-10 Conference women's tournament. Not much else went right that night.

First, there was the Pit's pesky scoreboard, which on more than one occasion this season has flashed and moaned out of order. The scoreboard had to be reset twice in Oregon's first two games of the tournament.

Then there was nearly an early exit by the host team, which would have surely diminished attendance for the rest of the weekend. Washington State, the first team to lose every Pac-10 game in one season, trailed the by just one point late in the first half before the Ducks pulled away late.

To cap it off, the fire alarm went off in the middle of the game. The Cougars immediately tried to leave the building, but were escorted back to the court after the false alarm.

It's safe to say, though, that after the shaky start, everything seemed to go off without a hitch at Mac Court over the four-day event — the scoreboard stopped whining, the



alarms were held in check and the seats were occupied (most of them, anyway). "We expected great crowds and great basketball in a wonderful environment. We got all that and much more," said Christine Hoyles, the Pac-10 assistant commissioner who organized the tournament. "Our biggest challenge next year will be to top this."

The tournament averaged almost 5,500 fans per session during the weekend, with a crowd of 5,842 greeting the Ducks on Friday. Oregon led the Pac-10 this season in attendance with more than 4,600 fans per game.

"We don't have to apologize for having the tournament here," Oregon head coach Bev Smith said. "The atmosphere was unbelievable. What you saw (from the crowd) was what's special about Mac Court and the people of Eugene."

A large crowd also showed up Monday night for the tournament's championship game, which pitted Stanford, the regular season Pac-10

champ, against No. 3-seed Arizona State. The Sun Devils stunned Stanford, ranked No. 2 in the country, 70-63, in one of the more entertaining games of the year.

Despite the loss, Stanford head coach Tara VanDerveer said the Pac-10 Tournament provides teams with good experience for the Big Dance. "For us, it's been a really good weekend," VanDerveer said. "The intensity that people saw is great. This tournament is great preparation for the NCAA Tournament."

Next year, the Pac-10 Tournament will be held at a neutral site — the Compaq Center in San Jose, Calif., beginning March 7, 2003. While the Pac-10 has only committed to a one-year deal with the Compaq Center, Hoyles said it is likely that the tournament could be in San Jose for a few more years.

"We would very much like to extend that contract," Hoyles said.

The Pac-10 will have to pay to play at the Compaq Center, but there are trade-offs with space issues for the 10 teams and the media.

"I don't think it will be that much more expensive," Hoyles said. "The general cost of doing business should be the same" as having it on a campus site.

Just as long as they keep a close eye on the scoreboard and the fire alarms next year.

E-mail sports editor Adam Jude at adamjude@dailyemerald.com.

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Wrestling

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at 157 pounds but lost twice, including a first round defeat at the hands of UC Davis' Jeremiah Jarvis, who advanced all the way to the championship round against Overstake.

Around the Pac-10

Arizona State's Eric Larkin, who defeated Watson 11-1 in the finals of the 141-pound bracket, was named the tournament's MVP. The conference title was Larkin's third of his career and has already been named an All-American twice. The

Arizona State junior was 24-4 overall this season and ranked No. 2 in the nation going into the Pac-10s.

Cal State-Bakersfield's Thomas Juarez (149) received the Gorrarian Award, which is given to the wrestler with the most falls in the least time. Juarez recorded two pins in a total time of 6:14. In the third place match, Juarez defeated Hunt, 2-1, placing the two wrestlers exactly where they were seeded — No. 3 Juarez and No. 4 Hunt.

Boise State's 123 points (7.5 ahead of Oregon) gave the Broncos their second Pac-10 title in three years. Their outstanding performance during the conference tourna-

ment came as a surprise to many of the other coaches around the Pac-10.

"I would not say this year's championship is sweeter than the first one," Boise State head coach Mike Young said. "But this one was extremely gratifying because most of the coaches in the league did not expect us to finish in the top three."

Finishing behind the Ducks' 115.5 points were Arizona State (103.5), Oregon State (83.5), Cal Poly (73.5), UC Davis (56), Stanford (50.5), CS Bakersfield (43), Portland State (31.5) and CS Fullerton (29).

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